

Message Text

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21-12

ACTION EA-06

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SSO-00 /026 W

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O 080609Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4725

C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 1791

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TW

SUBJECT: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CHIANG KAI-SHEK FUNERAL

1. THE FOLLOWING UPI STORY APPEARED TODAY, APRIL 8, IN
AFTERNOON ENGLISH-CHINESE NEWS:

A. "PRESIDENT FORD HAS DESIGNATED AGRICULTURE
SECRETARY EARL L. BUTZ TO REPRESENT HIM AT THE FUNERAL
OF CHINESE NATIONALIST PRESIDENT CHIANG KAI-SHEK NEXT
WEEK, AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT SOURCES SAID TODAY.

B. "THE SOURCES SAID BUTZ WOULD LEAVE HERE SUNDAY,
APRIL 12, FOR A STOPOVER IN TOKYO TO CONFER WITH JAPAN'S
NEW MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE BEFORE FLYING TO TAIWAN
APRIL 15 FOR THE CHIANG FUNERAL CEREMONIES.

C. "AIDES SAID THAT WHILE IN TAIWAN, BUTZ WAS
ALSO EXPECTED TO CONFER WITH REPUBLIC OF CHINA
OFFICIALS ABOUT CURRENT U.S.-TAIWAN COTTON TRADE
PROBLEMS.

D. "COTTON INDUSTRY SPOKESMAN HERE SAID THE
STATE DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN NEGOTIATING WITH TAIWAN
TO AVERT THE CANCELLATION OF TAIWANESE
CONTRACTS TO BUY ABOUT 200,000 BALES OF AMERICAN COTTON.

E. "AN INDUSTRY SOURCE SAID THE TALKS WERE
BELIEVED TO INCLUDE DISCUSSION OF JOINT US-TAIWAN CREDITS
TO FINANCE SHIPMENT OF THE COTTON."

2. COMMENT: I REGRET THIS EVIDENCE THAT THE UNITED
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STATES GOVERNMENT IS UNABLE TO CARRY ON ITS BUSINESS

WITH A FRIENDLY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT IN A DIGNIFIED
AND ORDERLY MANNER, ESPECIALLY WHEN THAT GOVERNMENT IS
IN A PERIOD OF DEEP MOURNING. FURTHERMORE, I DEPLORE
REFERENCES TO SECRETARY BUTZ'S CONFERRING ON

COMMERCIAL MATTER OF "US-TAIWAN COTTON TRADE PROBLEM" AS IF
TO SUGGEST SECRETARY BUTZ COMING TO CLEAN UP SOME BUSINESS
(WHICH INCIDENTALLY IS ALREADY WELL ON ITS WAY TO BEING
CLEANED UP) AND WILL ALSO TAKE THE OCCASION TO REPRESENT
THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES AT PRESIDENT CHIANG
KAI-SHEK'S FUNERAL.

3. PLEASE PROVIDE ME WITH SOME OFFICIAL INFORMATION SO
THAT I AM NOT OBLIGED TO TELL THE GROG THAT ALL I
KNOW IS WHAT I READ IN THE NEWSPAPER. UNGER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXTILES, PRESS COMMENTS, STATE FUNERALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: RowellE0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TAIPEI01791
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750121-0263
From: TAIPEI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750469/aaaactl.tel
Line Count: 76
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: RowellE0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <18 NOV 2003 by RowellE0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. PARTICIPATION IN CHIANG KAI-SHEK FUNERAL
TAGS: PFOR, OVIP, ETRD, TW, US, (CHIANG KAI-SHEK), (BUTZ, EARL L)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006